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Message Text

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12
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15

ACDA-19 IO-15 SAJ-01 NEA-10 DRC-01 /143 W
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R 051627Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7853
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
USNMR SHAPE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 14492

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, GW, NATO
SUBJECT: FRG BUNDESWEHR REORGANIZATION

REF: BONN 4933

1. ACCORDING TO DEFENSE MINSTRY SOURCES, MINISTER LEBER HOPES TO BE ABLE TO PRESENT THE BUNDESTAG A FORMAL GOVERMENT PROPOSAL TO REORGANIZE THE BUNDESWEHR SOMETIME DURING EARLY NOVEMBER, AFTER APPROVAL BY THE FEDERAL SECURITY COUNCIL IN THE SECOND HALF OF OCTOBER. OUR SORCES WERE CLEARLY DISINCLINED TO DISCUSS IN DETAIL THE PROBLEMS NOW BEING DISCUSSED IN THE MINISTRY, BUT WE GATHER THE FINAL PROPOSAL IS SHAPING UP MORE OR LESS ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

2. NONE OF THE DEVISIONAL BRIGADES WILL BE PUT ON A CADRE STATUS, ENSURING NO LOSS OF COMBAT POWER IN THOSE ARMY UNITS ASSIGNED IMMEDIATE AND DIRECT DEFENSE
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ROLES IN THE EVENT OF ATTACK. INSOFAR AS POSSIBLE, ONLY

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UNITS ABOVE THE BRIGADE LEVEL WILL BE CADRED, AND THEY WILL BE NON-COMBAT UNITS, SUCH AS SUPPLY, TRANSPORT-ATION, ETC. THE PROPSECTIVE PROPOSAL STILL CALLS FOR A FAIRLY IMPORTANT RE-ORGANIZATION OF THE GERMAN ARMY WHICH, AS WE DESCRIBED IN OUR REFTEL, WOULD ELIMINATE MANY OF THE UNITS AND FUNCTIONS SPECIFICALLY CONNECTED WITH EXPEDITIONARY OPERATIONS. IN OTHER WORDS, THE ARMY WILL BE RE-ORGANZED SO AS TO TIE IT MORE DIRECTLY TO THE DIRECT DEFENSE OF WEST GERMAN TERRITORY. ONE SOURCE SUGGESTED THE STREAMLINING MAY ENABLE THE ARMY TO BEEF-UP, IF ONLY SLIGHTLY, ITS OVERALL COMBAT CAPABILITY, ALSO, WE GATHER THERE IS ONE PROPOSAL UNDER STUDY WHICH WOULD CALL FOR THE ELIMINATION, OR REDUCTION IN STRENGTH, OF SELECTED UNITS OF THE AIR FORCE. APPARENTLY THE AIR FORCE WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED IN A MAJOR WAY, BUT IS BEING INCLUDED IN ORDER TO GIVE PLANNERS MORE OPTIONS IN A FINAL ARMY REORGANIZATION PLAN.

3. OUR SOURCES STATED THAT PLANNERS HAVE FACED ENOR-MOUSLY COMPLICATED PROBLEMS IN IMPLEMENTING VARIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS WITHIN ASSUMED COSTING AND BUDGETARY LIMITS. FROM WHAT WE GATHER, IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT MAJOR POLICY DISPUTS ARE BEHIND THE DELAY IN PREPARING A FINAL DEFENSE MINISTRY PROPOSAL, BUT RATHER THE DE-TAILED COST STUDIES AND IMPLEMENTING PROPOSALS HAVE PROVEN MUCH MORE DEFFICULT TO COMPLETE THATN EARLIER THOUGHT. WE UNDERSTAND SACEUR HAS ALREADY BEEN INFORMED OF THE GENERAL OUTLINE OF THIS REORGANIZATION PROP-OSAL AND NATO CONSULTATION WILL BEGIN AS SOON AS THE FEDERAL SECURITY COUNCIL APPROVES THE PROPOSAL.
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